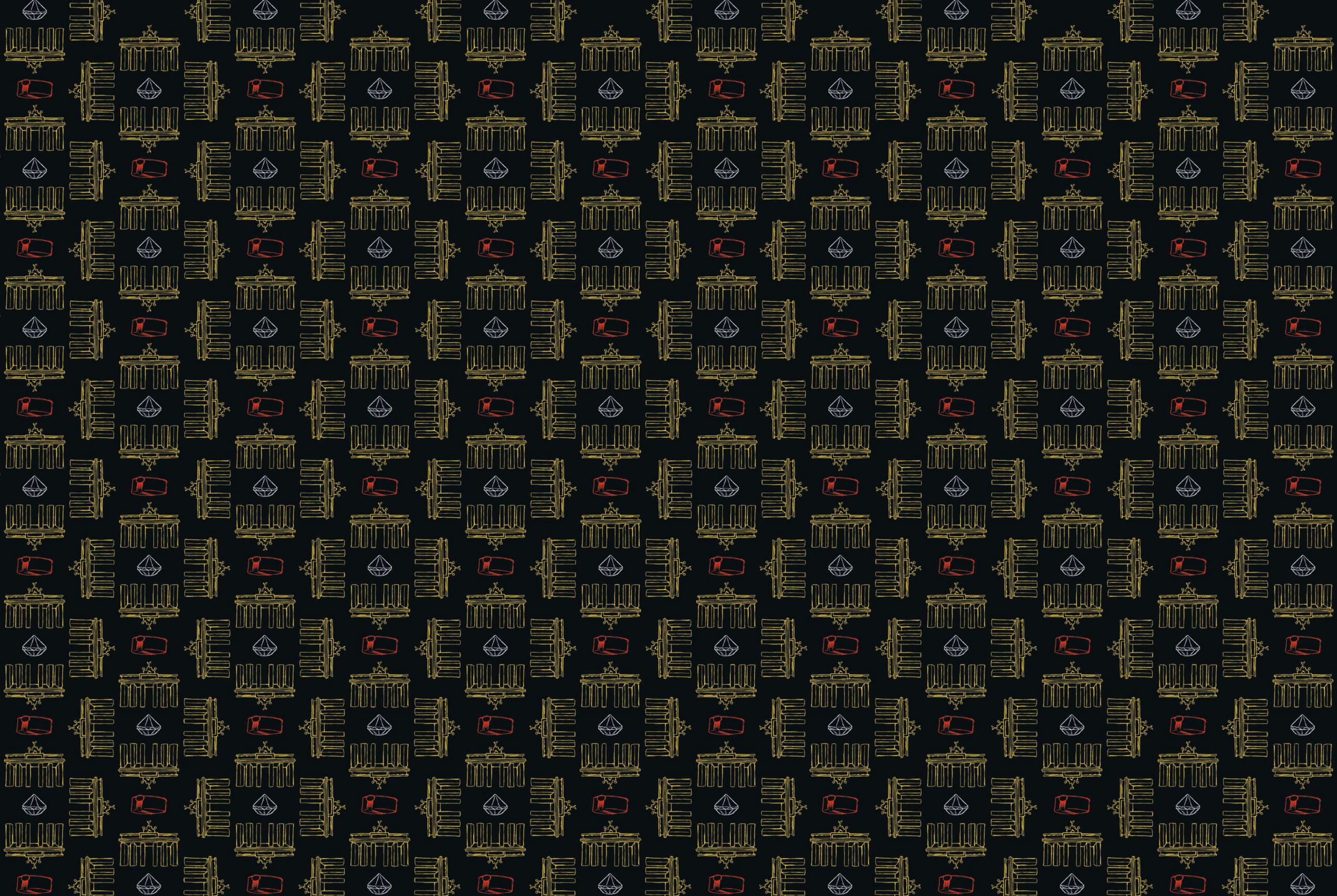
FLIX

SPIROU IN BERLIN

EUROPE COMICS



SPIROU
IN BERLIN

Writer and artist: Flix

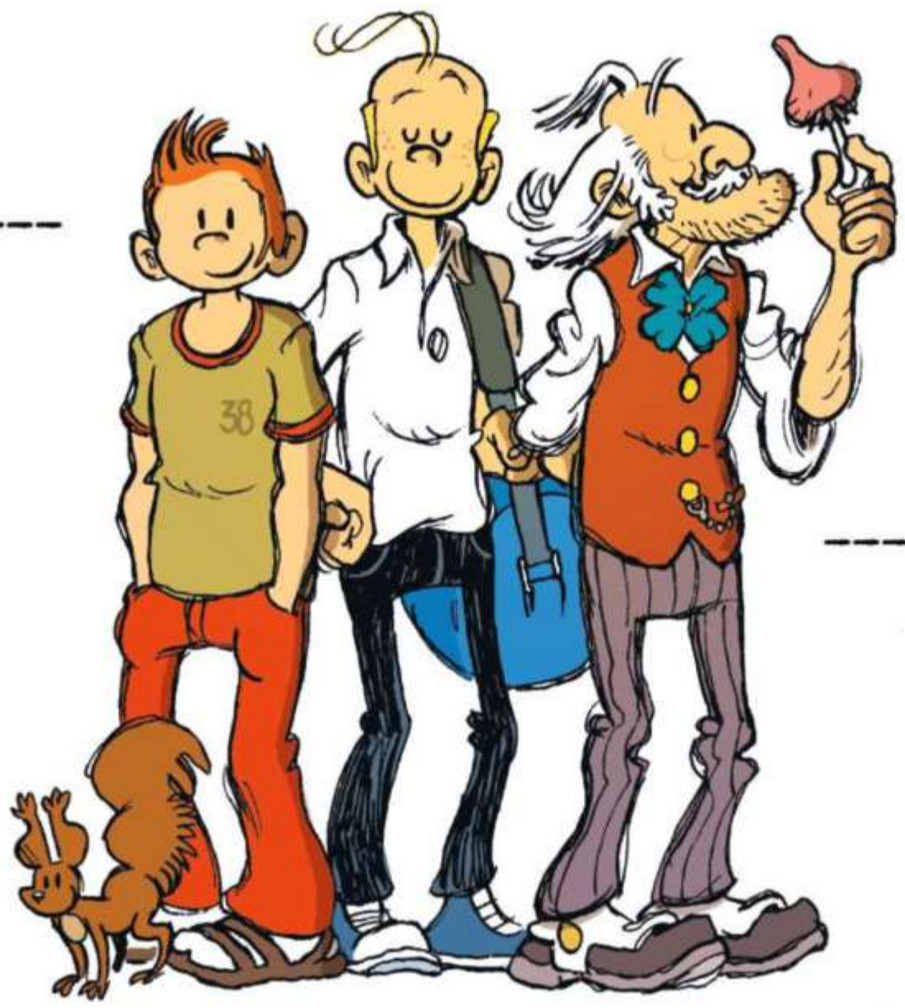
Colorist: Marvin Clifford

with Ralf Marczinczik

EUROPE COMICS

SPIROU
The intrepid adventurer, usually wearing his famous red cap, began his career as a bellboy at the Moustique Hotel. However, rather than carrying bags for guests from all over the world, SPIROU much prefers to be the one flying around the globe with his friend Fantasio by his side. After all, thrilling adventures with evil villains, mad scientists, and funny, amazing animals are waiting around every corner.

FANTASIO
At Spirou's side for every adventure is his best friend, the roving reporter Fantasio. Or rather, it's Spirou at his side, as it's usually Fantasio's job that leads the pair into precarious situations.



SPIP
The adorable squirrel is Spirou and Fantasio's faithful companion. Indeed, often the two friends are only able to escape from dicey situations after listening to their small, furry companion and his sixth sense for finding the nearest refrigerator.

COUNT OF CHAMPIGNAC
Pacôme Hégésippe Adélard Ladislas de Champignac is a man of science and close friend of Spirou and Fantasio. The Count always uses his extensive knowledge to serve mankind. Unfortunately, however, his inventions often catapult him and his two friends into wild adventures.

East Berlin.
Winter 1988.

VOUS QUITTEZ LE SECTEUR FRANÇAIS

Comrades. We are **BROKE!**

Our planned economy has failed. Technologically, we're limping along behind everyone. And absolutely no one in the world market wants our brown coal. Something **MUST** be done! **PROPOSALS!!!**

Banana plantations on Usedom!

Um...

Schnapps!

Schnapps and bananas!

War! War's always good!

Apologies for marching in unannounced, but...

Who are you!

Click!

Click!

Your knight in shining armor!

Brussels, nine months later.

DUPUIS

Spirou?

What's THIS?

What's WHAT?

Le EXPRESS

LE MOUSTIQUE

THIS!

SPIROU: SAUVETEUR DE L'EXTRÊME

DE STEFANIE

Magazine cover: "Stefanie's Knight in Shining Armor"

WHAT?

Next they'll be spying on me when I brush my teeth!

It's unbelievable!

LA VIE

JOURNAUX

IT'S THE COVER STORY!

I see that.

SPIROU! My boss has been on my back for WEEKS! He wants a story. For the cover. From ME! And you HAD one and didn't tell me?

"Bellboy Rescues Cat From Tree"?

EXACTLY!

Fantasio! You're a pro. You'll find something better.

Champignac is always a source of inspiration.

Grmpf!

And soon after...

TEAR DOWN THIS WALL!

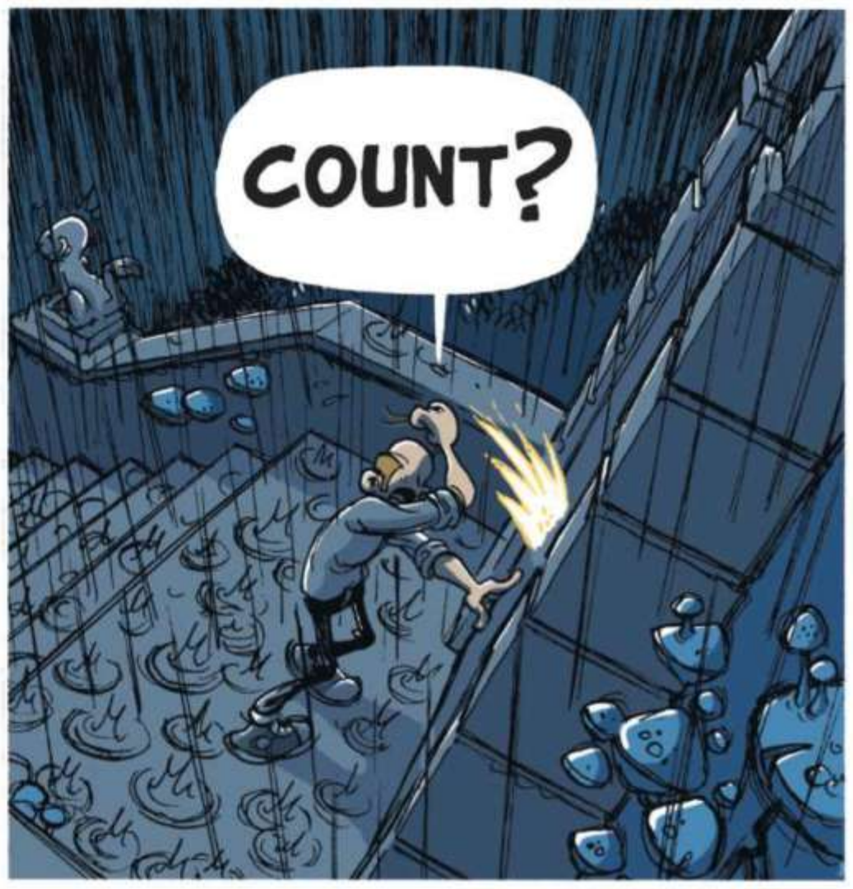
?

?

THAT ONE! There!
And please remove your headphones when I'm talking to you.
What is going on?
I, my dear friends, am combining my two laboratories because I have discovered a new fungus ser
RTTTRTRTTRTTRTTRTTT
What?
What's that?
MAIL!
RTTTRT
Can you say that stuff about the serum again? It sounded exciting.
Ooh!
An invitation to the first International Mycology Congress.
In two days at the Palace Hotel in East Berlin.
EVEN MORE exciting!
INVITATION
I've NEVER had the opportunity to meet my colleagues from beyond the Iron Curtain.
I may even have the chance to see a Small-Capped Portabriris there.
Huh?
An extremely rare mushroom that exists only there and which no one has ever found.
Hmm, but...
But WHAT?
RIP!
East Berlin?
I say merci.
But NO MERCI.
GLASS
PAPER
MUSH-ROOMS
What are you worried about? I could go with you!
Berlin is awesome! All the Nazis are gone.
I,.. I,.. want to HELP you!
Really!
Oh, Fantasio.
You CAN help me.
Chalk white or magnolia?
tuiles

FRITES KOKOMIKO
Hmpf! How can he turn down an opportunity like **THIS?**
No idea.
BOULANGERIE
UN BON AVENIR POUR TOUS
?
But it is a little **STRANGE.**
What?
The invitation. Turning up just two days before the event.
FERMÉ
SOUPIR
TABAC
Lunettes
NONSENSE! Colleagues behind barbwire! Scientists for peace! Warm fungus in a Cold War! It's pure **GOLD!**
For you.
For the Count too. Especially for him!
He could see his colleagues. And see that small-capped thingamy. And he could... um...
CHEZ KILIKIL
Leave it, Fantasio.
The old guy is one of the leading fungus researchers in the world.
He knows what he's doing.
And **I'M** a reporter at Belgium's leading news magazine!
I know what I'm doing **TOO!**
FANTASIO!
CHEZ KILIKIL
CHEZ KILIKIL

D 69
CHATEAU
CHAMPIGNAC 2


COUNT?

?

Hellooooo?!

It's me, Fantasio.
I wanted to talk to you about the invitation.

Count?

THE COUNT'S GONE!

What do you mean, "GONE"?

Gone! Not there! Spontaneously left for the congress!

Took the night train and **GONE** to Berlin. Something like that. What do I know?

Sounds strange.

What else could it be?

?

?

Eeeek! Eeeeekkk!

What's **THAT?**

Oh no!

VROOOOMMM!

It's just a **BUTTON**, Spirou.

Yeah.

It doesn't prove **ANYTHING.**

I know.

But if even just a little of what I suspect is true...

Yeah?

...then we need to get to East Berlin **AS FAST AS POSSIBLE.**

Yeaah!!!

E40 Bruxelles

E40 Aachen

E25 Maastricht

East Berlin is the capital city of the German Democratic Republic.

The German Democratic Republic (GDR) was established after Germany lost the Second World War.

It may have presented itself as the German Peace State and called itself democratic…

…but it was in fact a real socialist dictatorship.

However, economically, it did not fare particularly well. Many things were unavailable.

Freedom in particular. A great wall prevented the people of the GDR from leaving.

The Ministry for State Security also watched anyone who might perhaps have something against the GDR. So, basically **EVERYONE**.

And anyone who tried to escape the GDR could expect severe punishment.

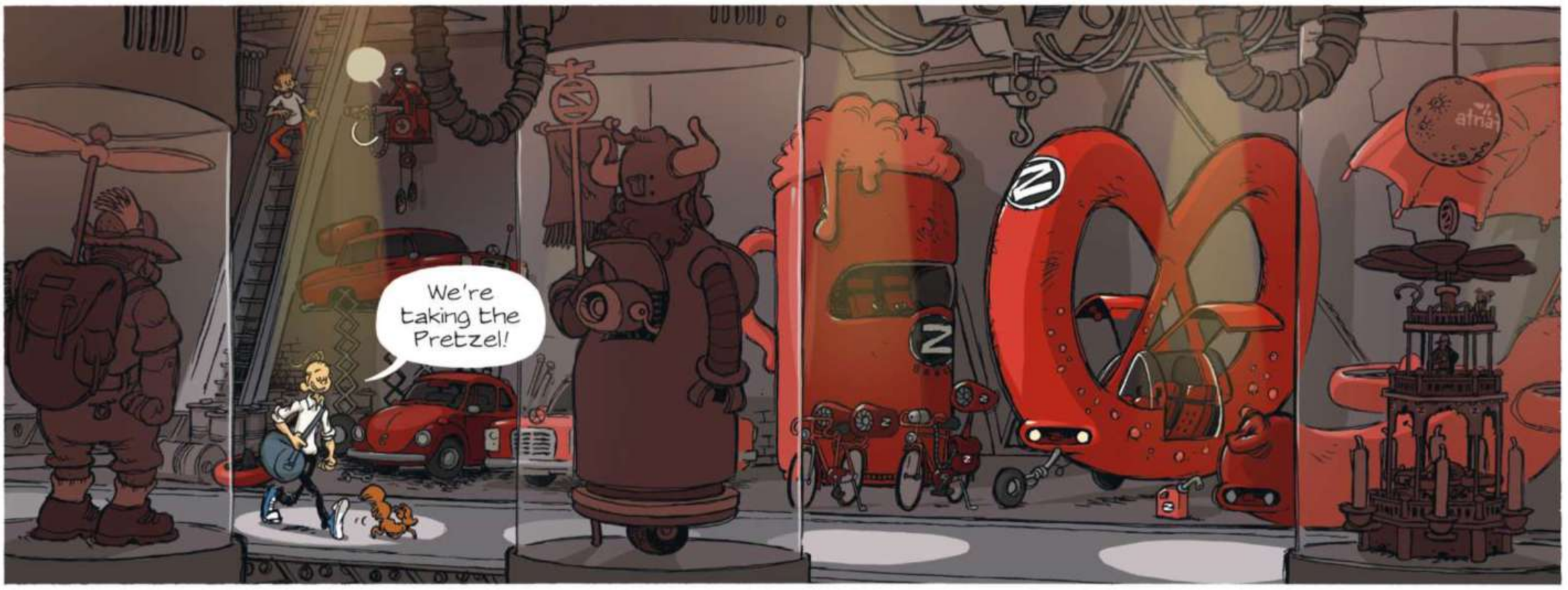
All Directions
Berlin (Transit)

Fantasio! We should have taken the turnoff back there.
You want to take the transit route?

Of course! We want to go to Berlin!
"AS FAST AS POSSIBLE."

Well?

Do you remember that Zorglub worked for the Germans for a while?
And?


We're taking the Pretzel!

Do you even know how to start the thing?
Sure!

Clack.

AAAA

I **NEVER** claimed I knew how to land it!

BERLIN-TEGEL

OTTO LILIENTHAL

PAN AM

Cheer up!

Now we just have to get into the **OTHER SIDE** of the city.

JUST? JUST?!

It's the most **HEAVILY GUARDED** border in Europe!

True.

But we've got **THIS**!

?

FASHION HOUSE Frank Vienna

?

Fantasio, you're crazy!

TXL

OF ZOOLOGISCHER ARTEN

NO NO FUTURE

And you're along for the ride, dear. We don't recognize borders.

But the costumes...

If you'd kindly follow me.

But...

Trust me. Conspicuous is the new inconspicuous.

Maybe.

But our passports...

Zur Grenzübergangsstelle

Wasn't easy. But they're excellent quality!

You're crazy!

If we're caught, we'll be thrown in jail forever!

Won't happen.

And... And if it does?

Then that's a **GUARANTEED** cover story.

4

BRD

DDR

Bongiorno, Dottore!

What's wrong? The forgeries aren't good enough?

Haha!

Oh, I forgot. Humor and dictatorships don't mix.

Eeek!

ACHOO!

...

AHAHAHA! A beard mite.
You know how we WESTERNERS are simply crawling with lice!
Oh no!
Spip!
Stay there!!!
Eeeek! Eeeeek!
It's unbelievable what all the DRUGS do to you.
1983
Barely across the border and already arrested. Thanks a lot!
WHAM!
Et voilà! ACROSS!
Who would've believed it? Apart from me.
Hehe! It's not as bad here as everyone says, is it?!
From now on, I'M in charge of our little tour group. Understood?!
If you insist. HEY! The mandatory currency exchange paid off!
What?
He gave you ALL THAT for 50 francs?
Strange. The exchange rate is only...
WOOHOOO! WE'RE RICH!
Hahaha!
This is going EVEN better than I expected!
AWESOME!
Shhh! Take it easy!
TAXI!

PALASTHOTEL

HOLY MOLY!

Broiler

Mode

PALAST

REZEPTION

PALAST HOTEL

So, shall we?

Hey! **I'M** in charge.

Good day. We would like to...

Mademoiselle, we're journalists, here to write a big story on the Mycology Congress.

On the **WHAT?**

WELCOME!!! We're thrilled that the Western press is interested in this wonderful and unique event bringing everyone together.

Hmpf.

We would love to interview the Count of Champignac.

Our **VIP** from Belgium? He's currently meeting with colleagues. Making preparations. Shop talk, so to speak. You know.

We shouldn't interrupt.

But he'll have time for you **TO-MORROW MORNING.**

Until then, gentlemen, I'd be delighted to invite you to stay as our guests!

So, how did I do?

Why did you tell that smug fool why we're here?

Why not? Everything's fine, Spirou.

The Count is here. We'll see him in the morning. And who'll be getting the exclusive? **MOI!** Santé!

Pour the drink back in the bottle right now, Fantasio. We're not waiting till morning.

We're going now. Be in the lobby in ten minutes.

Can't I have pros, just once?

Quit it, Spip. No one's interested.

And you've had enough candy for today.

Eeek! Eeeeek!

It's made of wax!!!

YUCK!

Eeek! Eeeeek!

No, Spip.

Even so.

That's **ENOUGH!**

Eeeek!

I'm putting them away. You can have them back later.

Eeeek! Eeeek! Eeeek!

And now, quick march! Fantasio is probably already waiting for us.

?

No!
No!
Please!
Quick, Spip! In here!!!
I... I want to go home!
OUCH!
Stop that!!!
That was the Count.
But who were those guys?
Eeek! Eeeek!
I don't like it either...
NO!
PLEASE!
I won't do it!
NO!
Never!
NOOO!
PLEASE!!!
Spip.
Eeek?
We've got to get him out of there...
03- 9-89 0
2:23:59
QRN 76 calling MILN 89. Do you copy?
The Frog has tasted the Fly.
I repeat. The Frog has tasted the Fly.

REZEPTION
Well, where is our esteemed tour guide then?
Hmmmm.
313
HEY!
Hehe.
Come on.
Oh!
Whew!
Hmm.
AHA!
HALT!
It's FAR TOO EARLY for the aperitif, boy!
Kitchen! Now! Quick march!
Dinner won't prepare itself, you know!
Yes sir...

I'm sorry, sir, but your friend is not in his room.

HAHAHAHA! Of course not. I was able to arrange a quick meeting with the Count for him.

So that everyone can relax. He'll be back in an hour.

Hmpf!

In the meantime, why don't you enjoy our wonderful city?

Surely you didn't come all this way just to kick your heels.

Dear Diary, you know that I'm not one to exaggerate.

But I have seen much of the world.

Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, America, and Palombia.

But nowhere...

...truly nowhere...

...is as incredibly peaceful as here!

It's so peaceful here, isn't it?!

?

You look like one of those fancy writers over here from the West working on a big story. But you don't see what's really going on behind the façade.

Me?

Not see what's going on?

With all due respect, Madame, I am a **PRO**!

My eyes are wide open. Everything is crystal clear...

You want a **REALLY** hot scoop? Exclusive? With photos?

LE MOUSTIQUE

FANTASIO PRÉSENTE:

LE JOURNAL DE HONECKER DÉCOUVERT

Magazine cover: "Honecker's Secret Diary Discovered"

Here!

It's all in there. Get this over to the West.

If you screw up or get me busted, my trained apes will hunt you down and **POW**! Got it?

Got it.

Trained apes?

A metaphor?

Trained apes.

No. They took some of those photos.

Hahahahahaha-hahahahahahaha-hahahaha!

I'm sorry. For a moment there, I really thought you had a hot scoop.

But...

Merci! It was a pleasure talking to you. Au revoir!

But...

But...

Wait!

The West **MUST** know!

Well, if we must.

But I can't promise that I...

HEY!

Reisebüro

Alexande

Tsk!

So, that's what it's really like here.

My God.

Yeesh!

MORE!

Can I ask what you're doing with all these potatoes?

Typical bellboy. No idea about nothing.

Staff food. Mashed potato with oil!

Urgh! Why THAT?

If the plan says we eat mashed potato with oil, we eat mashed potato with oil. Last week. This week. Next week. Some guy's bright idea.

Why don't you make French fries?

It's the same, but tasty!

Allow me to present...

...the vent and the deep-fat fryer.

Both broken. Since forever.

No spare parts?

Not a chance!

But what is it they say?

NEITHER AN OX NOR A DONKEY IS ABLE TO STOP THE PROGRESS OF SOCIALISM.

HEY! IS THAT SUBVERSIVE TALK I HEAR?

PALAST HOTEL

Spirou?

Where did **YOU** come from?

I saw the Count and he's--

Found the small-capped mushroom thingamy?! **WOOHOO!**

Shhh! Not woohoo!

He hasn't found the small-capped mushroom thingamy?

No. And he's certainly not here of his own **FREE WILL!**

I don't know what's going on, but...

HNGH!

...we have to assume the worst.

That's fine. Bad is good.

And anything's better than "Apes Photograph Bathrooms."

...

SCREEEEEECH!

Hyah!

Hyah!

Good day, gentlemen. Major Kleinwitz is the name.

Kindly come with us so we can **CLEAR SOMETHING UP.**

Flick!

Pling!

Eeeek! Eeeeeek!

EiNOUCH!

SNATCH!

ZweOOF!

Hyah!

Hyah!

Mhmhm!*

Mh!**

Hy-this!

The only matter that needs clearing up is: Where's the Count?

You know what, Spirou, I stand corrected. Maybe it's not "fine" to assume the worst because...

AAAAAA

GRAB THE PAPER AND RUN!

Eek! Eeeeek!

?

Drei!

NEUES DEUTSCHLAND

BANG!

BANG!

BANG!

RUN!

AAAAAAAAAAAA

?

*Oh no! **Over here, Spip! I'll catch you!

Uhhh...

Hello?

Can anyone hear me?

Hellooo?

Hello?

This isn't funny!

I want out of here!

We're not in BRETZEL-BURG!

HELLOOO! THIS MUST BE A MISTAKE! I'M A JOURNALIST!

I'M JUST HERE TO...

FROM BELGIUM!

Clack!

RING RING!

Frog 1 is in the box.

Good. And Frog 2?

On monitor 5. The red dot.

Heehee! I **LOVE** surveillance states...

A-huga-haga-hoo?

?

A-huga-haga-hoo!

Um... t-thanks! I wish you a wonderful socialist day, too. What... What do you want from me?

BOOM-BOOM!

A-huga-haga-hoo!

BOOM-BOOM!

BOOM-BOOM!

"Boom boom"?

BOOM-BOOM!

HABA!

HUB-HUNGA! HOP-HOP!

Hey, guy with the weird clothes. Come with me.

Tennis is canceled.

Merci!

Yeah, yeah, whatever.

You didn't have a chance against Boris anyway.

Wow.

Could you tell me where we are?

Could you tell me where the newspaper is?

Here.

All yours.

HEY! What the...!

A uniform's a uniform. Even a stupid one.

WHAT?!

Do I look like I work for the Stasi?

Conspicuous is the new inconspicuous.

No way!

Fantasio and I are friends.

We came to Berlin to find the Count of Champignac.

Friends.

Yeah, right.

FRIENDS! Why else would I have grabbed the paper?

Pff.

My parents helped build the GDR because they'd had enough of war and wanted a peaceful world for their child.

FRIEDE

PROLETARIAT

They knew from the start that it wouldn't be easy. Peace is like sculpting stone, they said. It requires strength. And stamina.

We had nothing. Nothing. Not even fear.

And now? Now we have nothing **BUT** fear.

My parents lost their lives helping to build socialism.

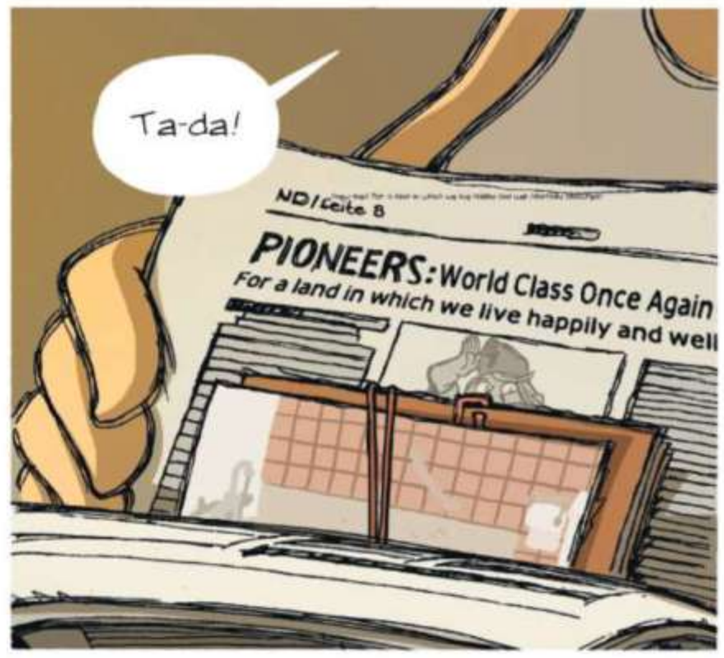
The government taking everything from us is the very nature of socialism.

Maybe lying to us about everything is too.

But another **WAR?**

NO!

What do I get if I take the paper over to the West?



Dunja's bathtub disappeared last winter.

She came home and it was gone.

Just like that.

We looked into it.

And lo and behold, things have been disappearing from other people's homes.

Pots, water heaters, bicycles, bed frames, ovens. Anything metal.

In Mitte, in Prenzlauer Berg, in Pankow, Köpenick, even in Hohenschönhausen.

All over.

Around the same time, fleets of trucks were seen transporting scrap metal...

...to massive sealed-off construction sites on the edge of the city.

But you don't need scrap metal to build tower blocks.

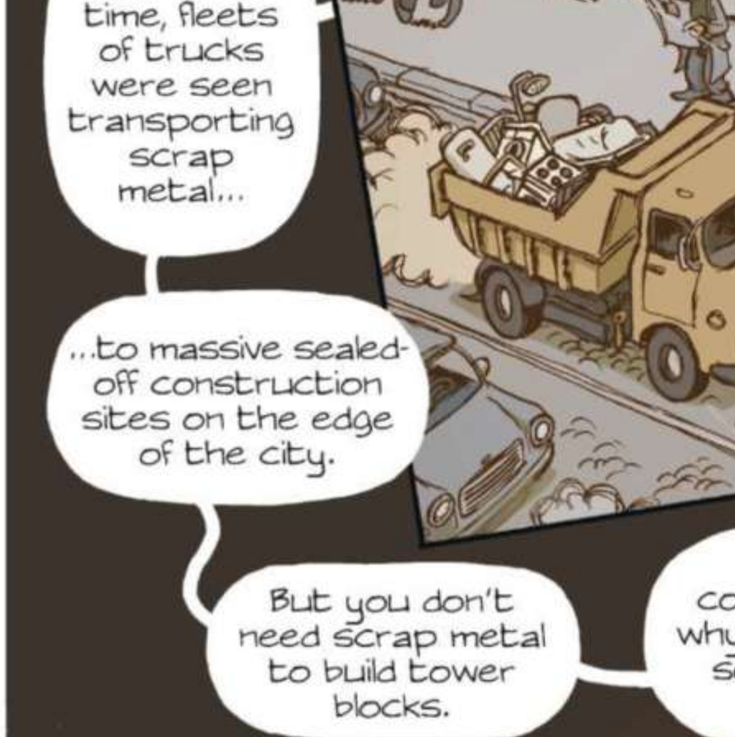
Why were they collecting metal? And why so much? And why secretly? And then I realized.

They're planning something.

They're building something big. A giant **WEAPON**.

Here!

These photos are proof.



Stop it.

LEAVE THE LIGHT ON OR OFF, BUT STOP...

Oh God...

LET! ME! OUT! NOW! LET! ME! OUT! NOW!

Please... Please stop. Please...

Are you sure?

It'd make an excellent story.

Even if you'll never be able to print it...

...my dear COUSIN!

We'll look for your friend while you're gone.

We?

The animals and me.

And before you ask: they're from the zoo.

A-huga haga-hoo!

A zookeeper there taught them a bunch of nonsense.

The visitors loved it.

But one day...

EXTERMINATE THEM! IMMEDIATELY!

By chance, I was there.

I decided in that moment that I would free them before their sentence could be carried out.

ATTENTION: APES

Haba-hub?

The zookeeper had already disappeared without a trace.

Anyway, I've been hiding them here ever since, trying to teach them **EVERYTHING** they need to live free.

I can't imagine that's easy.

It's not.

But at some point, you have to choose between what's easy and what's right.

BANG!

Hub-Hunga! Hop-Hop!!!

Well...

"Passport forgery," "acquainting with subversive elements," "temporary ownership of illegal documents," "violently resisting civil servants of the GDR," and so on...

Fantasio, Fantasio. You're looking at 15 years, easy.

At least.

What are you doing here, Zantafio?

Why are you wearing that uniform?

Are you...

RING RING!

One moment, please.

Yes?

All right.

Good.

Thank you.

You know the reasons for **ALL** my actions, dear cousin.

Here.

The smallest violin in the world.

And your friend Spirou was a great help.

Well... "friend."

He's in the next room. He just confessed all your crimes to Major Kleinwitz. In writing! We're sending him back to Brussels today. Spip too, of course.

WHAT?

As for you...

15 years can really drag.

Naturally, we'll stop switching the lights on and off.

It's far too stressful.

Have you ever heard the term **SOLITARY CONFINE-MENT?**

But it doesn't have to be this way. I can also make you a **FABULOUSLY WEALTHY MAN.** And life can be good here. But you know how it is...

One hand washes the other.

TOP SECRET

Active

REF. NO. VII

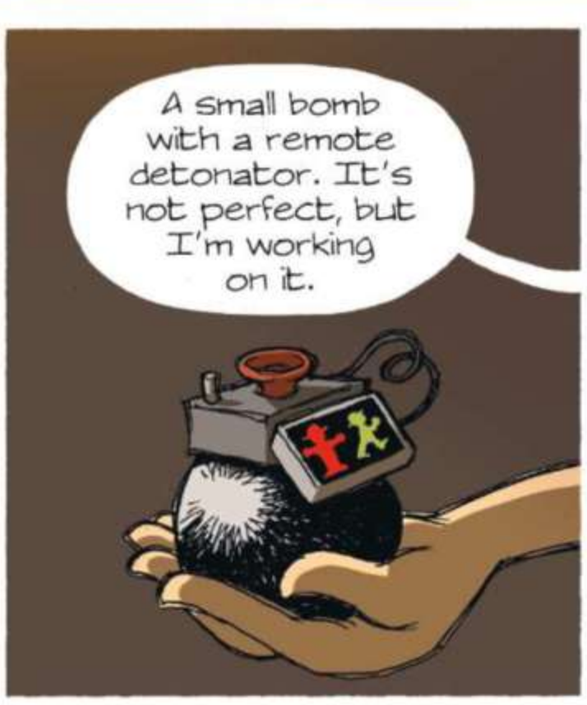
Mr. FANTASIO

MFS

Paul and Paula will take you into the city.
Then just return the way you came. Deliver the photos and come back.
I can manage that.
Somehow.

If you can't, be patient. The big day will be here soon.

What's that?
A sticky bomb.
A WHAT?


A small bomb with a remote detonator. It's not perfect, but I'm working on it.

When they're ready, we'll plant them on the Men in Gray.
H·ONN 1

It'll be like Stauffenberg, but done right! And then, three, two, one...

BOOM!
Peace.

But people will be hurt. Maybe even KILLED!
Has there ever been a revolution without bloodshed?
Exactly.

When the clowns are in charge, you have to deal with the circus.

BANG!

You stupid apes! Keep your hands off the weapons.

HABA! HUB-HUNGA! HOP-HOP!

Oh!

...

GET DOWN!!!

THIS IS MAJOR KLEINWITZ. WE'VE ALREADY HAD THE PLEASURE. COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP RIGHT NOW! I WILL GIVE YOU TO THE COUNT OF DREI!

?

Damn, damn, damn! Someone betrayed us!

EINS!

But who?

ZWEI!

Who do you think?

Fantasio?

NEVER!

DREI!

SMOKE GRENADE

Damn it! He's not **PLAYING!**

Cough!

Is there a way out back?

Cough cough!

Not anymore! We've got just one chance. Hold your breath!

HUBBA-BUBBAAA-AAAAAAAA-AAAAH!

Cough cough!

Hop-hop-hop!

VVVROOOMMM!

?

HUP-HUP!!!

On three!

Got it?

FIRE!

THREE!!!

BANG!

BANG!

BANG!

BANG!

BANG!

BANG!

BANG!

Hubi-hubi!

BANG

BANG!

BANG

BANG!

BANG

The key is pressure.

The right pressure in the right place, and you can crush anything.

I have invented a machine that presses brown coal into diamonds. And they have a lot of brown coal here!

YOU invented it?

Invented... Found...

I **HAVE** it!

And I've scaled it up to transform 500,000 tons of coal into sparkling stones.

Every day.

I will make the GDR so rich that they'll change its name to the...

...**GERMAN DIAMOND REPUBLIC.**

CENTRUM

This country isn't technologically capable of building such a machine.

I was worried about that, too. But anything's possible.

With a little **PRES-SURE!**

But such a machine must be enormous.

Oh, you know...

Size is relative.

It's... It's incredible!

Merci!

But I prefer the expression "zantafioesque."

And what do you want from me?

You? You will get it started.

That's all.

I'll WHAT?!

Get it started?

You... You overestimate me, cousin!

I'm a journalist, not an engineer!

I don't know ANYTHING about machinery!!!

I even DESTROYED Zorglub's Pretzel!

I SWEAR!

I know YOU'RE clueless, Fantasio.

Ow!

But HE'S not!

Mhhm-mhhh-hmh!!!*

*How wonderful to see you, Fantasio! Is Spirou with you?

LA-LALÜLALA-LALÜLALA-LA
DAMN!!
They're catching up. Go right! Hobba-hobb!!!
HUNGA!!!
The OTHER right!!!
Noooo!
BONK!
Clack!

QRT 82 calling MILN 89. We've lost visual on the Frog. I repeat. LOST VISUAL ON THE FROG!!!

Keep your hair on, Kleinwitz! We have him on monitor eight. He's 650 feet west of you. Down at the river.

Where then?
Damn it!

Hobhob-hob!!!

Huga.

Really? We lost them?

Great!

Although getting you back to the West will be even harder now.

But...

But what?

?

But I know some people.

They may be able to help us.

Huga-huga

On my signal?

Got it?

Knock! **KNOCK KNOCK!** Knock!

Momo?

You're still around?

I'm so relieved! I thought they'd taken you.

No, but I need help, Rainer.

Sure.

But Dunja isn't going to be happy to see you...

We have visitors.

?

?

?

?

Dunja, I know we haven't seen eye to eye recently, but I need your help.

Oh yeah?!

Have you found another couple of primates that **URGENTLY** need rescuing?

No.

A couple of Belgians.

...

This is Spirou. He's OK.

And I... I thought Momo was still one of us...

YOU THINK I'VE GOT SAUSAGE MEAT FOR BRAINS???

Rule number 1: Nobody brings strangers here! **N-O-B-O-D-Y!!!** Once again you jeopardize everything, Momo! You ruin **EVERYTHING!!!**

Take it easy! I don't know anything about any sausage meat. Or rules. And I don't want to ruin anything.

I just want to get home. With my two friends who have **BOTH** gone missing here. One is...

STOP!

We don't know you. We don't know who you are. We don't even know if "Spirou" is your real name.

It's here in my passport. Look.

Who says that's real?

Sorry, we can't help you.

I know who he is.

LE MOUSTIQUE SEPTEMBRE 1983

SPIROU: SAUVETEUR DE L'EXTRÊME

DE STEFANIE

"Spirou: Knight in shining armor"?

Wow!

Where...?

Family in the West.

So...

Your friend in Hohenschönhausen is the least of your worries.

OK.

Our lawyer, Dr. Vogel, has been informed. He'll buy Fantasio's freedom soon.

And our small East-West travel agency here has organized a little trip for you.

You leave at midnight. On the dot.

Momo knows the details.

OK.

And what about the Count?

PFLUGSCHAREN

ONHOEFFER

How long till midnight?

PALASTHOTEL

But the place is a maximum-security unit. You could spend 100 years trying to break in.

We've got ninety minutes.

Could someone please open the vent?

Merci, Boris.

And now, um...

Merci.

The vent will lead us...

HNGH!

...to the hotel kitchens.

And to anywhere from there.

And which direction are the kitchens?

Just follow Spip.

Eeek! Eeeeek!

The squirrel is a blood-hound?

The squirrel has a sweet tooth.

I'm not sure.

Me neither.

He says it's up here.

Spip could find a refrigerator in his sleep.

Eeek! Eeeeek!

OK then.

BONK!

BONK!

BONK!

BONK!

BONK!

Eeek! Eeeeek!

To be honest, it doesn't look like the hotel kitchens. It looks more like...

THE COUNT!

Krrr...

That's the COUNT!

PLEASE!

I BEG you!

You're the only one who knows how many drops of your FUNGUS SERUM to add!

Please! Do it!

Mhm!*

And there on the balcony. That's your friend, the journalist.

?

Just start this damn MIRACLE WEAPON OF SOCIALISM and everything will be fine.

This is like a bad propaganda movie. That IDIOT IS with them!

It... It can't be...

Mhm-mmmhm-mhhhm.**

Mhm-hmh-mhm.***

Well.

I'm sorry, too.

I tried. Really.

But what can you do?

It's OK.

The key is pressure, cousin.

Perhaps we simply need to INCREASE it.

*No. **My apologies, Fantasio. ***No means no.

Mmmh-mmm...

CHAMPIGNAC, ADD THE !!! DROPS OF FUNGUS SERUM!

KNCK!

Oh no!

SPIROU!

...

CR-CRASH!

BANG!

SSSSSSSSSSSSST!

eee

KA-CHING!

RTSCH!

DRIP!

robotron-Z

Run

Input

That was precisely the right amount!!! It's... It's...

...zantafio-esque!!!

Oh God, THE COUNT!!!

Spirou?

Huba!

You guys rock. Now, let's get to the nearest elevator!

Mhm-mh!*

Huff!

Comrade Mielke? Our machine is ready to go.

But first I have to stop nine POIs currently fleeing sector G.

Do not let them escape!

You know me.

Wait, that's not the elevator I came down in!

Mhm!**

So what! Let's just get out of here!

FREEZE!

*Spirou! You're here too. How wonderful!

**And not the one I came down in either.

THIS IS MAJOR KLEINWITZ! WE ARE ALREADY ACQUAINTED. EXIT THE ELEVATOR WITH YOUR HANDS UP THIS SECOND! I WILL COUNT TO DREI!

EINS!

A-huga-hoo!

ZWEI!

A-HUGA!

HAGAAAAA!

BANG!

Hoo...

The restaurant?

TELE CAFE

CAFE

?

Good evening!

Thank you for coming. We have reserved our best table for you!

Ronny! Alert level red! Not green!!!

OK.

Huff!

Where are we?

Up top.

All the way up top.

And does our illustrious tour guide have any idea on how we're going to get down?

Yep!

Are... Are you crazy?

No.

And now, if you'd please proceed this way at a brisk pace.

We're not at work. We're on the run!

Huff!

I am **NEVER** going anywhere with you again!

Sure, buddy.

I'm serious.

Shhh! It's almost midnight. Then we're going over...

STOP!

OVER THE WALL? It's the most heavily guarded border in Europe!!!

Shhhh!

Tap! TAP-TAP! Tap!

Oh NO!

HELLO! IT'S ME. MAJOR KLEINWITZ! AND I'VE HAD IT UP TO HERE WITH YOU LOT!!!

It's over. It's over!!!

It's not over yet.

Come on! Let's go!

BORIS! Move it!

BU-BOOM!

BU-BOOM!

Thanks.

Hmpf!

Thank Momo. I wouldn't have helped you.

Thanks anyway!

I hope you make it.

Everyone here? It's just a little further.

But--Sniff! Sniff!--you can already smell the West.

There!

Rainer cut the bars below. You'll have to dive under.

Then you're across.

But be careful. It drops 20 feet on the other side.

OK.

HHHHHHHHH...

...P.

HHHHH-HHHH!

Damn! The gap's closed.

Someone blocked the way through.

?

No... It can't be...

We're trapped.

WOOHOOOO!!!

YES!

YES!

YES!

YES!

YES!

IT'S...

...a Small-Capped Portabriris!!!

HURRAY! That's my cover story! Please be very careful with the mushroom so I can...

HEY!

Pffffff...

I want to go home.

How... How does it work?

Are you perchance familiar with METOMOL[1]?

Like that, but a little different.

Go, go, go! You first.

But...

WOO-HOO!

Spirou! Please check for another mushroom thing up there!!!

And you?

Are you coming with us?

CRASH!!!

[1]See Spirou and Fantasio *The Dictator and the Mushroom*

Huh?
Why have the bars closed?
It seems that the mushroom's effect is rather brief.
But where's Spirou?
Does the Portabriris have teleportation powers, too?
SPIROU!
HE'S STUCK! HIS UNIFORM GOT CAUGHT WHEN THE BARS CLOSED!
I'M TRYING...
I...
I CAN'T REACH!
And I...
...can't quite...
...free him...
DAMN YOU, BAR MAKERS! DAMN YOU, BORDER BUILDERS! YOU PIGS! I'LL BREAK YOU ALL! ALL OF YOU!
BOOM! PEACE!
Sob...

GAAA-AASP!

Cough! Cough!

Spirou?

Please. Always act in peace!

But...

Please!

A wise woman once said...

...at some point, everyone has to choose between doing what's easy...

...and doing what's **RIGHT.**

Comrades! What do we do with someone who allows nine persons of interest to escape? **PROPOSALS!!!**

Banana plantation on Rügen.

Schnapps!

Schnapps and bananas!

War! War's always good!

Um...

But, but, but...

Strictly speaking, it wasn't me, but Major Kleinwitz.

A-And the machine is finally up and running! All that matters is... um... what comes out.

Pah! And **WHEN** do we get to see the first rocks?

Um... According to my information, immediately, at once...

KRRRK!

In five...

...four...

...three...

...two.

...one.

Clack!

BOOM!

Merde!

Ooh! Apologies for marching in unannounced!

I'll apply so much pressure, you'll have diamonds coming out of your keister, Herr Mielke!

I'm your knight in shining armor!

We may be BROKE, Comrade Zantafio...

...but we are still a FUNCTIONAL LAWLESS STATE!!!

SOLITARY CONFINEMENT! FOREVER!

NOOOOOOOOO!

Back in Champignac...

THE WALL IS STILL STANDING!

Pah! Workmen!

You get kidnapped for three days and they down tools.

But we really did get to see a Small-Capped Portabriris...

YEAAH!

But no photo to prove it!

No photo! No COVER STORY!

Oh, Fantasio! You're a pro. You'll find something better.

What about, "Knight in Shining Armor: Bellboy Fixes TV in Time for the Evening News"?

HA HA!

Ooh la la, Spirou. You're a hero.

Click!

...anti-government demonstrations in East Berlin last night.

With the protests remaining peaceful, no incidents have been reported.

Maybe, Count. But others even MORE SO.

WIR SIND EIN VOLK

Magazine cover: "The Girl of East Berlin: A Report by Fantasio"

FLIX, born 1976, lives and works as a freelance illustrator and comic book artist in Berlin. He studied communication design and debuted with his graduation work *held* (Hero) at Carlsen. Further comic books containing autobiographical elements followed. His newspaper series *Da war mal was…* (There Was Something…) and *Schöne Töchter* (Plenty More Fish in the Sea) for *Tagesspiegel,* and *Faust* and *Don Quijote* for *F.A.Z.* are available in collected editions, as is the children's comic strip series *Ferdinand* produced in collaboration with Ralph Ruthe for *Spiegel* magazine's children's supplement *Dein Spiegel.* Flix currently produces the weekly newspaper comic strip *Glückskind* (Lucky Fellow) which appears in the Monday issue of the *Frankfurter allgemeine Zeitung.* Flix's works have received numerous awards, including the Max and Moritz Prize and the PENG! Prize, and have been translated into nine languages. Flix is the first German artist to be given permission to produce an album for the long-standing series *Spirou.*

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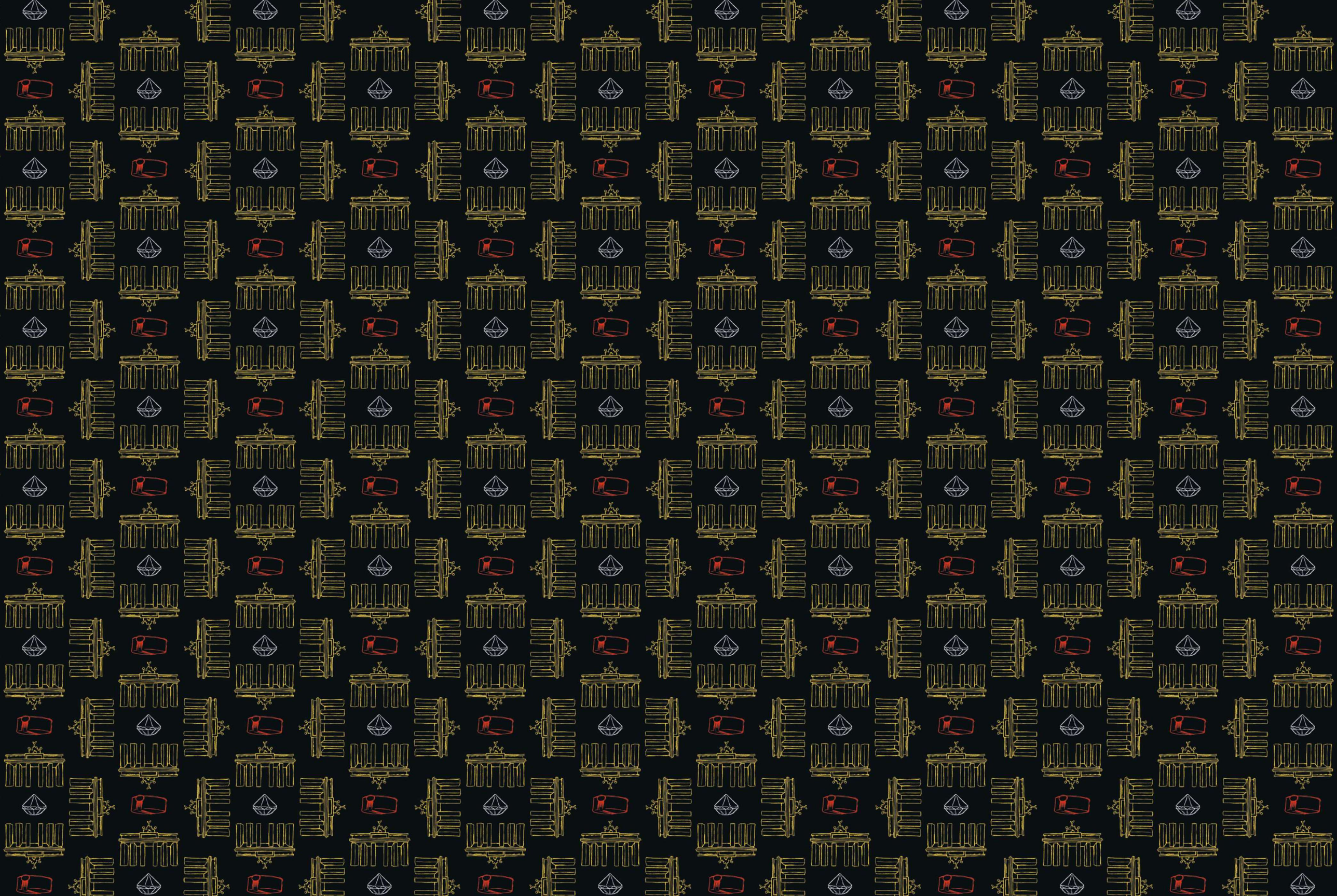

FLIX

SPIROU IN BERLIN

Late summer, 1989. Two friends set off for East Berlin. Their experiences there will change the course of world history forever...

In life, there are times when we must choose between what's easy and what's right.

"*Spirou in Berlin* is an exceptionally well-made comic; it's simply nothing less than a future classic."
Süddeutsche Zeitung